

Appl. No. 09/972,282  
Amdt. Dated February 13, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of August 13, 2003

Attorney Docket No. 81925.0005  
Customer No.: 26021

### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-23 were pending in the application. By this amendment, claims 1, 3, 4, and 6-17 are being canceled, and claims 2, 5, and 18-23 are being amended, to advance the prosecution of the Application. No new matter is involved.

In paragraph 11 at the bottom of page 4 of the final Office Action of August 13, 2003, claims 2, 5, and 18-23 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but are indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. In response, Applicant is rewriting claims 2, 5, and 18-22 in independent form. In the case of claim 2, such claim is being amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 1 from which it depends. Claim 5 is being amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 1 and 4 from which it depends. Similarly, claims 18 and 19 are being amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 1 and 4 from which each depends. In the case of claims 20 and 21, each of these claims are being amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 1, 4, and 6 from which they depend. Claim 22 is being amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 9 from which it depends. Claim 23 depends from claim 22 and should also be allowable now that claim 22 has been rewritten in independent form.

In conclusion, claims 2, 5, and 18-23, which are the only claims now remaining in the application, should be in condition for allowance as discussed above. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (213) 337-6846 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

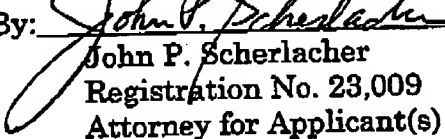
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Customer No.: 26021

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,  
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: February 13, 2004

By:   
John P. Scherlacher  
Registration No. 23,009  
Attorney for Applicant(s)

500 South Grand Avenue, Suite 1900  
Los Angeles, California 90071  
Phone: 213-387-6700  
Fax: 213-387-6701

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 500 SOUTH GRAND AVENUE  
 SUITE 1900  
 LOS ANGELES, CA 90071

Tel: (213) 337-6700  
 Fax: (213) 337-6701

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**TELECOPY/FACSIMILE COVER LETTER**

TO: Examiner Jerry T. Rahll  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
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 FROM: John P. Scherlach  
Voice: (213) 337-6846  
Fax: (213) 337-6701  
jpscherlach@nhlaw.com

DATE: February 13, 2004

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## MESSAGE:

RE: U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/972,282 filed October 5, 2001  
 Applicant: **Bornes VETSMER**; For: **OPTO-ELECTRONIC PACKAGE FOR INTEGRATED SEALING OF OPTICAL FIBERS**

— John P. Scherlach, Reg. No. 23,009  
 Direct Phone No. (213) 337-6846

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 LOS ANGELES, CA 90071

Tel: (213) 337-6700  
 Fax: (213) 337-6701

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 FROM: John P. Scherischer  
Voice: (213) 337-6846  
Fax: (213) 337-6701  
jpscherischer@hhlaw.com

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 Applicant: Brian Velsher; For: OPTO-ELECTRONIC PACKAGE FOR INTEGRATED SEALING  
 OF OPTICAL FIBERS

-- John P. Scherischer, Reg. No. 23,009  
 Direct Phone No. (213) 337-6846

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 500 SOUTH GRAND AVENUE  
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TO: Examiner Jerry T. Rahill  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Group Art Unit 2874  
 FROM: John P. Scherlach  
Voices (213) 337-6846  
Fax: (213) 337-6701  
jpscherlach@phillaw.com

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— John P. Scherlach, Reg. No. 23,009  
 Direct Phone No. (213) 337-6846

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